

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 15, 2006 – 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

Westerly Town Hall

1. 6:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Present: Robert Ritacco, Co-Chair; Gail Mallard, Co-Chair; Richard Smith, Treasurer; Richard Anthony; Chaplin Barnes; Rita H. Deane; M. Ann Lamb; Richard D. Comolli; Jonathan Eckel; Charles Vacca, Town Assessor; Harrison Day; William Haase, Town Planner

Absent: Robert J. Brockmann; M'Liss Crotty Chapman; David W. Gervasini; Thomas J. Liguori, Jr.; Brian McCuin; Joseph MacAndrew; Thomas Toscano, Jr.; Nicholas Castagna, Town Council Liason; Anthony Giordano, Zoning Official;; Joseph T. Turo, Esquire, Town Manager

Linda C. Hebert, Recording Secretary

Co-Chair Co-Chair Ritacco called the meeting to order.

Co-Chair Ritacco presented and read a letter of resignation from Robert J. Brockmann. He also indicated that M'Liss Crotty Chapman has verbally indicated that she wishes to resign from this committee and will send a formal letter of resignation. Co-Chair Ritacco was also in contact with Brian McCuin who indicated that he still wishes to be

on the committee, but has been unable to attend the last two meetings as he has been out of the state.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6/1/06 MEETING

Motion made by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Mr. Barnes, that the aforesaid

minutes be accepted and approved as printed.

3. UPDATED REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE & RECREATING ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

There was confusion as to whether or not Ms. Hebert was able to receive emails from committee members during her medical leave of absence. She had not received homework assignments emailed to her after 6/6/06 due to a problem with her email. This problem has since been resolved.

Open Space and Recreation Element

Page 84 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 - Acquire Key Potential Open Space Parcels – Mr. Anthony submitted his paragraph for the approval of the committee. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Anthony shall re-write this paragraph to include additional parcels purchased by Public Works. The sentence “This action was very well

defined (tab 5 page 59) .” shall be removed and replaced with different wording.

Page 85 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 - Expand Town Beach –Ms. Deane has not completed this re-write at this time.

Page 86 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 - Purchase an Additional Patrol Boat to Improve River Management and Enforcement – Mr. Toscano has not completed this re-write at this time.

2.3 IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

Page 87 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 - Provide Picnic Sites and Hiking Trails – Mr. MacAndrew and Mr. Anthony have not completed this re-write at this time.

Page 88 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 - Upgrade All Existing Town and School Playgrounds and Provide Necessary Future Maintenance and Upgrades to Meet Changing Recreational Standards – This summarization shall be included as written, with the following change:

The first two paragraphs of this summarization are to be deleted.

2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT

Page 89 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 - Use a Variety of Methods to Protect Westerly's Open Space – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 90 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 - Designate and Protect Scenic Roads In Westerly – This summarization shall be included as written, with the following change:

The sentences beginning “Development has been clustered” to the end of the paragraph shall be deleted.

Page 91 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 - Increase Annual Budget for Maintenance and Improvements of Town-Owned Recreational Facilities – Mr. MacAndrew has not completed this re-write at this time.

Page 92 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 7 - Negotiate With the State Agencies to Improve State-Owned Facilities in Westerly – Mr. Toscano has not completed this re-write at this time.

Page 92 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 8 - Periodically Update the Open Space and Recreation Plan – This summarization shall be included as written. **Note, Ms. Hebert has received additional wording, which shall be included on the re-draft of this element for the Committee's review.

2.5 REGULATION STRATEGIES

Page 93 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 - Encourage the use of Cluster Zoning to Create Open Space and Recreation Areas – Mr. Liguori and Mr. Haase have not completed this re-write at this time.

2.6 ACTIONS REQUIRING FURTHER STUDY

Page 97 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 - Investigate Expansion Needs for Senior Center – This summarization shall be included as written. Mr. Vacca shall provide the missing date.

4. UPDATED REVIEW OF TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Traffic and Transportation Element

Page 27 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Relieve Traffic Congestion Downtown – The original summarization by Mr. Haase shall be added back in to this section, with the following change:

The last sentence beginning, “But now, communities ...” shall be re-written for clarity by Mr. Haase.

Page 28 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 - Decrease the Demand for On-Street Parking in the Downtown Area – The original

summarization by Mr. Haase shall be added back in to this section.

Page 28 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 - Coordinate Land Use Development and Roadway Improvements to Minimize Traffic Impacts – This summarization shall be included as written.

Page 30 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 - Review Unauthorized or Illegal Use of Public Roadway Shoulders Which May Cause Safety Problems and Obstruct Pedestrian Access – Ms. Mallard has not completed this rewrite at this time.

Page 31 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 - Develop a Citizen's Committee to Work With Amtrak to restore Station Parking and Historical Station Building, and Improve the Accessibility of the Train Station to Handicapped and Elderly Individuals – This summarization shall be included as written, with the following changes:

The portion of the sentence, “including addition parking north of the tracks,” shall be deleted and replaced with “serious parking deficiencies still remain in the vicinity of the station.”

5. UPDATED REVIEW OF NATURAL, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT OF CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

NATURAL, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

WETLANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Page 48 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop Stormwater Control and Erosion and Sedimentation ordinances and require Best Management Practices (BMP's) to control non-point source contamination of water resources. Design ordinances to include a “carrying capacity” of water resources in order to control cumulative impacts of either stormwater pollutant loading, increased hydraulic loading or habitat elimination. (Regulatory) - Mr. Haase distributed his summarizations to the Committee for review and discussion. He shall re-write this summarization to include status information of items on this list.

Page 48 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Insure adequate “vegetated buffers” (setbacks) are required between upland development and wetland resource areas. (Regulatory) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 49 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Develop a water quality monitoring program for inland and coastal waters to gage the effectiveness of protection measures and serve as an early warning system in the event of contamination. (Administrative and Management) – Ms. Mallard and Mr. MacAndrew have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 49 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Incorporate results of water quality monitoring into ongoing land planning and regulation efforts conducted by the Town. (Administrative and Management) – Ms. Mallard and Mr. MacAndrew have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 50 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – The Planning Board and Conservation Commission undertake an environmental educational program to increase public awareness of natural resource values and encourage property owners to protect ecologically important areas via easements and gifts of land, etc. Special emphasis could be given to wetland resources, inland and coastal. (Administrative and Management)- Mr. MacAndrew has not completed the summarization at this time.

GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Page 50 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop a comprehensive local ground water protection strategy. (Administrative and Management) – Mr. Liguori and Mr. Haase have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 51 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Prepare a local Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan in accordance with RI DEM WHP Program requirements. (Administrative and Management) - Mr. Liguori and Mr. Haase have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 51 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Revise zoning ordinance to include an aquifer protection overlay district. (Regulatory) - Mr. Liguori and Mr. Haase have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 52 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Develop inventory of potential contamination sources. (Administrative and Management) – Mr. Haase shall re-write this paragraph to include verbiage regarding underground storage tanks.

Page 52 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Acquire areas for protection purposes. (Capital Improvement) - Mr. Liguori and Mr. Haase have not completed the summarization at this time.

PAWCATUCK RIVER SYSTEM

Page 53 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Establish “River Corridor” along the entire length of the Town bordering the Pawcatuck River. (Regulatory) - Mr. Liguori, Ms. Mallard and Mr. Haase have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 53 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Integrate the recommendations of the Pawcatuck River Estuary Management Project (Harbor Management Plan) into the Town’s land use regulations and enforcement/management programs where

appropriate. (Regulatory, Administrative and Management)- Mr. Liguori, Ms. Mallard and Mr. Haase have not completed the summarization at this time.

COSTAL RESOURCES

Page 54 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop land use standards (such as Salt Ponds Overlay Protection District) that reflect the sensitive nature of the coastal environment including coordination with the policies of SAMP and CRMC for coastal ponds. (Regulatory) – Ms. Mallard and Mr. Liguori have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 54 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Continue to provide protection for the most fragile areas and support management and educational capabilities of the fire districts and other owner organizations. (Administrative and Management) - Ms. Mallard and Mr. Liguori have not completed the summarization at this time.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Page 55 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Insure the protection of rare species habitat by monitoring development projects within or adjacent to identified sites and requiring restrictions on activities which may be deemed harmful to these environments. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be

included in its entirety, with the following changes:

“Napatree Beach and Point” shall be changed to “Napatree Barrier Beach”.

Mr. Anthony shall re-write the last sentence to include the Weekapaug Foundation, and where the Rhode Island Natural History Survey Group performed their survey. He shall send it to Mr. Barnes for review before inclusion in the draft.

Page 55 - RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Strengthen the management programs for Napatree Point and Maschaug beach to control recreation overuse and natural predation of rare shorebirds. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the addition of “and” after Conservancy.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Page 35 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 - Establish Historic District Commission (HDC) and historic district zoning for recognized areas. Develop design standards to be applied within designated historic areas which are reasonable and consistent with historic preservation goals. (Regulatory, Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following change:

“an education effort should be undertaken” shall be deleted.

The paragraph beginning “2006 an initiative...” shall be deleted.

Page 35 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Review, revise and update the 1978 preliminary survey of historic records. Determine if deficiencies exist and additional resources should be added to survey. Nominate eligible historic resources to state and national registers. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 –Apply to the RIHPC for Certified Local Government (CLG) status – Mr. Barnes and Mr. Liguori have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Utilize existing groups in the Town and State (including the Historic District Commission, if established) to foster community awareness of historic preservation programs on a long-term basis. (Administrative and Management) – Mr. Barnes and Mr. Liguori have not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Acquire a map of archaeologically sensitive areas in Westerly. (Administrative and Management) – Mr. Haase has not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 37 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 – Consider adopting a site development bylaw requiring an archaeological assessment in archaeological sensitive areas. (Regulatory) – Mr. Haase has not completed the summarization at this time.

Page 37 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 7 – Consider the re-use of the old Town Hall building as a center for cultural activities and/or professional uses. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization will be included in its entirety.

Page 38 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 8 – Integrate cultural programs and organizations with downtown revitalization efforts. (Administrative and Management) – Ms. Deane has not completed the summarization at this time.

6. UPDATED REVIEW OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT REGARDING FIRE DISTRICTS (BRIAN MCCUIN)

Mr. McCuin has indicated to Co-Chair Ritacco that he should have this information at the next meeting.

7. DISCUSSION OF LAND USE ELEMENT AND HOUSING ELEMENT AND ASSIGNMENT OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Haase

has indicated that he would like to tackle the Housing Element in its entirety.

8. OTHER ITEMS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be held on July 13, 2006, at 6:00 pm, and the meeting following that one will be held on August 3, 2006, at 6:00 pm, both in the Council Chambers.

9. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC/COMMITTEE RESPONSE

None.

10. AJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved by the Committee.

ATTEST:

Linda C. Hebert

Recording Secretary